

May 15, 2014

**Written Testimony of Ryan C. Plecha, Esq.
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the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association**

Presented to the House Committee on Detroit's Recovery and Michigan's Future ("Committee")

Chairman Walsh and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding the very important issue before this Committee and the Michigan legislature.

Lippitt O'Keefe Gornbein, PLLC, the firm I work for, represents the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association (RDPFFA) and the Detroit Retired City Employees Association (DRCEA). My testimony today will be in my capacity as a representative of each association. However, as you all are aware, Don Taylor, president of the RDPFFA and Shirley V. Lightsey, president of the DRCEA, presented testimony provided in support of the legislation. I am confident that Don and Shirley said it better and with more personal experience than I ever could, so I will not attempt to repeat their testimony. Therefore, my comments focus on a few points that are common to both associations.

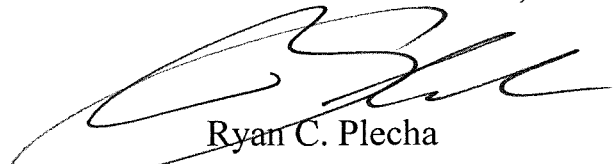
- Both the RDPFFA and the DRCEA have reached agreements with the City to Support the Plan of Adjustment, conditioned on receipt of outside funding and treatment set for as the consensual result or "Alternative A" in the Disclosure Statement and the Plan.
- Both the RDPFFA and the DRCEA have provided support letters to the City to be included in the solicitation and voting materials to be sent out to all retirees.
- Both the RDPFFA and the DRCEA ask that the legislature appropriate the State money to contribute its portion of the Grand Bargain to avoid a cram down scenario.

-Both the RDPFFA and the DRCEA state that the consensual result with the Grand Bargain, including State funding, is better than the scorched earth cram down scenario that could result in years of contentious litigation and would further deteriorate the City and put the State in greater risk.

I would like to say that this is not just a case for me or my clients, but it is a cause, and protecting retirees is the only objective. I am humbled by the courage and tireless efforts of Don Taylor and Shirley Lightsey, in concert with their respective associations to have reached their agreements with the City. Those agreements are not perfect but were struck for the sole purpose of protecting their constituents from greater harm. Based on their leadership and commitment to retirees, I am confident and steadfast in their support and request of the legislature to make this appropriation, which is the cornerstone to help protect retirees from greater harm. Remember you are voting on retirees' lives and livelihood, not politics or ideology.

Respectfully,

LIPPITT O'KEEFE GORNBEIN, PLLC



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